

Online Public Meeting Summary

Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Time: 6:30-8:10 p.m.

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

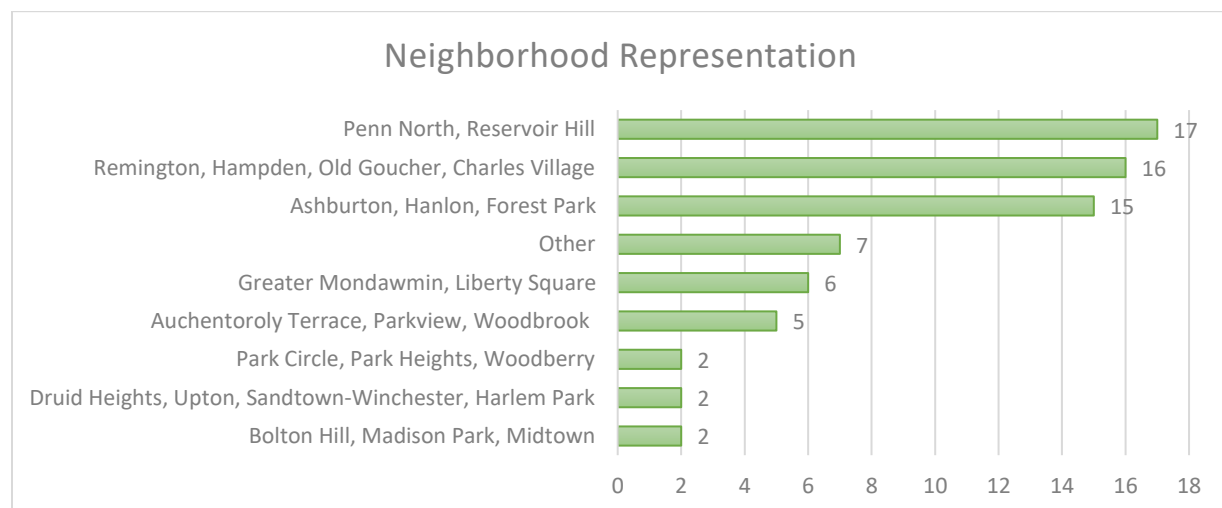
The Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT) held a public meeting for the Druid Park Lake Drive Complete Streets Feasibility and Concept Design online via Zoom on April 28, 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the Druid Park Lake Drive Complete Streets project to the public and generate input surrounding their goals for the future of Druid Park Lake Drive, issues to address within the corridor, and preferences for design elements. 114 public participants attended the meeting.

After providing an [overview](#) of the Druid Park Lake Drive project, the meeting walked through several interactive sessions to generate input from meeting participants. Three introductory polls were conducted to gain an understanding of the community representation, modes of travel and visions for the future of the corridor. Two question and answer sessions were held to answer participants' questions about the project. Seven polls were conducted to survey community members' preferences for design ideas under consideration for the corridor. The results of community input are summarized below.

Neighborhood representation:

The public meeting was attended by community members from multiple neighborhoods around Druid Park Lake Drive and residents of neighborhoods further away who commute using the corridor. As shown in Figure 1, an introductory poll found that the public meeting was attended by the following communities, shown in descending order starting from the highest number of participants. Of the 114 attendees in the meeting, 72 voted in this poll. Participants who selected "Other" were able to add the name of their communities, which included Liberty Heights, Gwynns Falls Parkway, Garwyn Oaks, Hanlon Park, and Union Square.

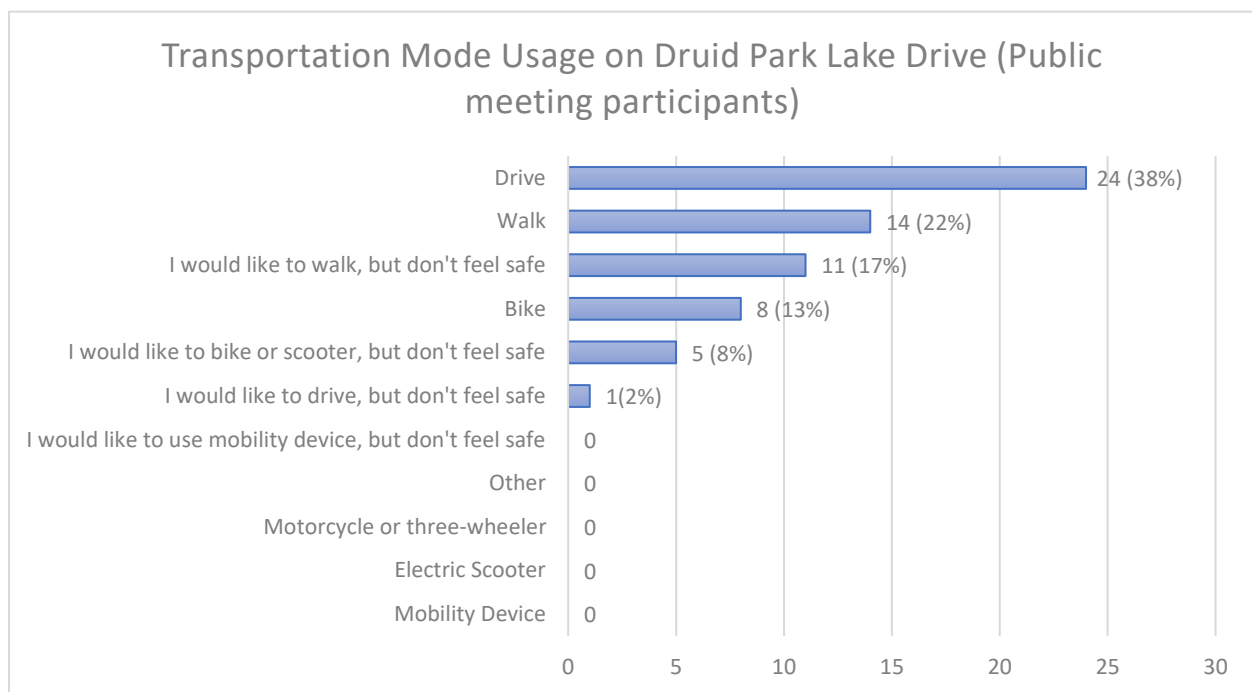
Figure 1: Neighborhood representation in Druid Park Lake Drive Public Meeting



Transportation Modes

The second introductory poll found that meeting participants use a variety of modes on Druid Park Lake Drive, with driving, walking, and cycling representing the top three modes of travel. A significant number of participants indicated that they would like to walk or bike, but do not feel safe doing so on Druid Park Lake Drive. Of the 114 attendees, 63 voted in this poll. Of the responses provided, 38 percent drive and the remaining 64 percent stated that they either currently use or would use other modes of travel on the corridor if safety and access for these modes were improved. It is important to note that this poll allowed only one response per participant and therefore did not reflect that many participants use several modes on the corridor.

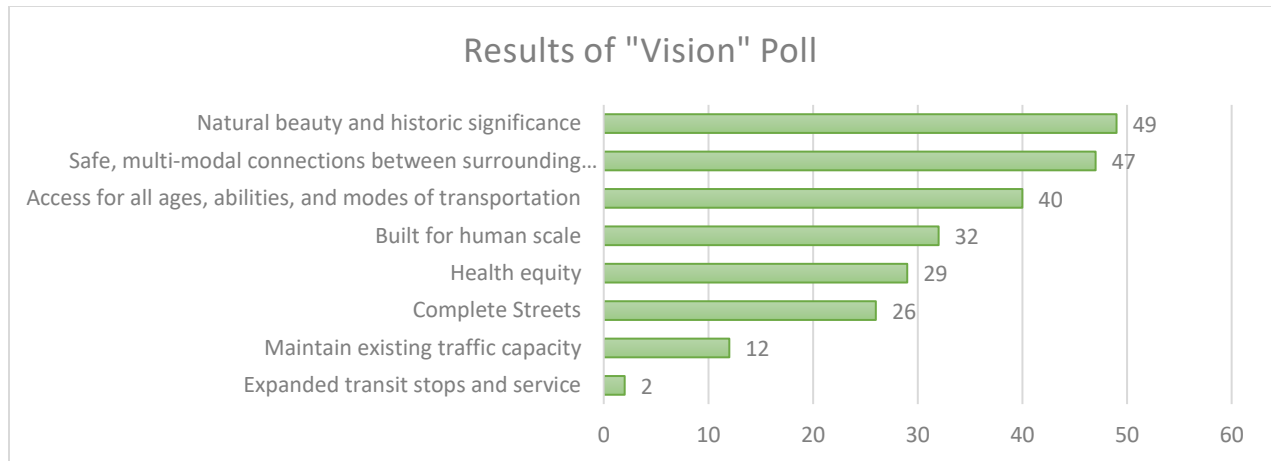
Figure 2: Mode Usage Among Public Meeting Participants



Project Vision

Participants were asked to select their top visions for the corridor in a third poll, in which 77 of 114 participants voted. Participants were able to vote for more than one option. As shown in Figure 3, the options that received the highest votes included “Natural beauty and historic significance”, “Safe, multi-modal connections between surrounding communities and the park”, and “Access for all ages, abilities and modes of transportation”.

Figure 3: Vision Poll Results

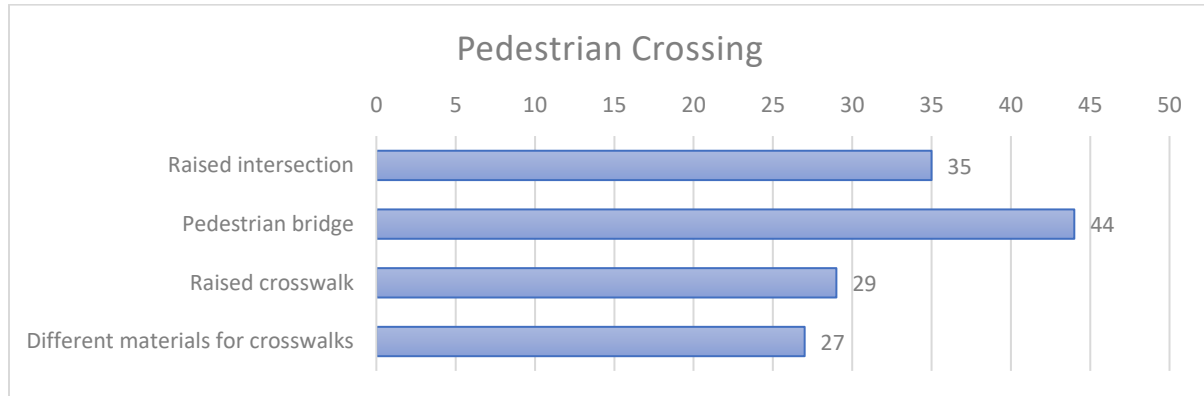


Vision for Design Elements on the Druid Park Lake Drive Corridor

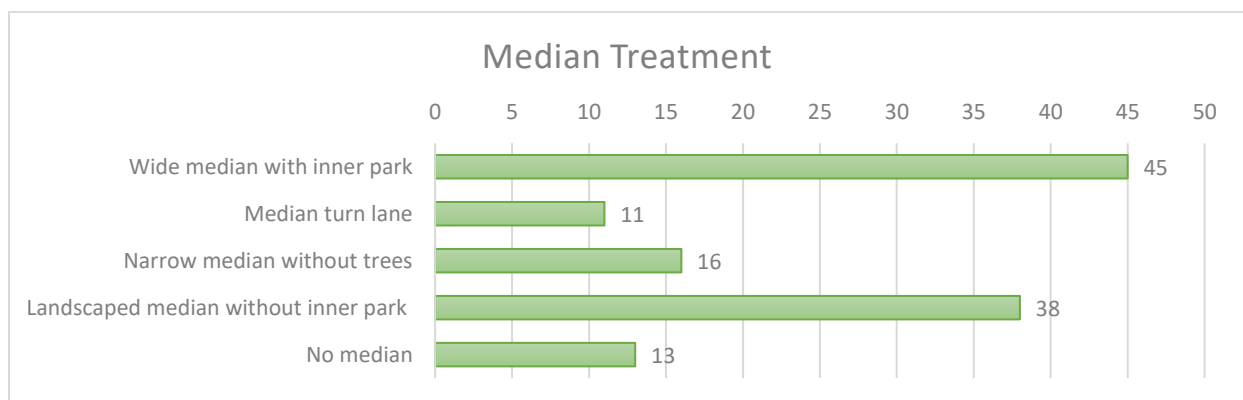
The project team walked participants through design ideas in seven categories: pedestrian crossing, median treatments, intersection design, bus stops, separated bike lanes, gateways and public art. Participants were able to vote for their top preferences within each category. The purpose of these polls was to provide an idea of stakeholders' preferences for key design elements for the study team to consider during the design process. The project team recognizes that the voting conducted during this public meeting only represent a small segment of the overall community, but the information provided does give the team a general understanding of the goals and vision of the participants who do represent a cross section of the larger community.

Poll 1: Pedestrian Crossing

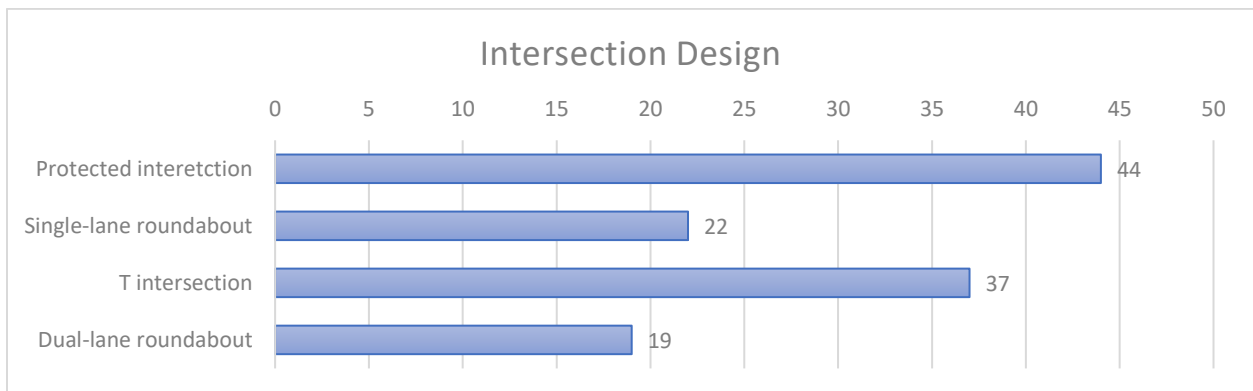
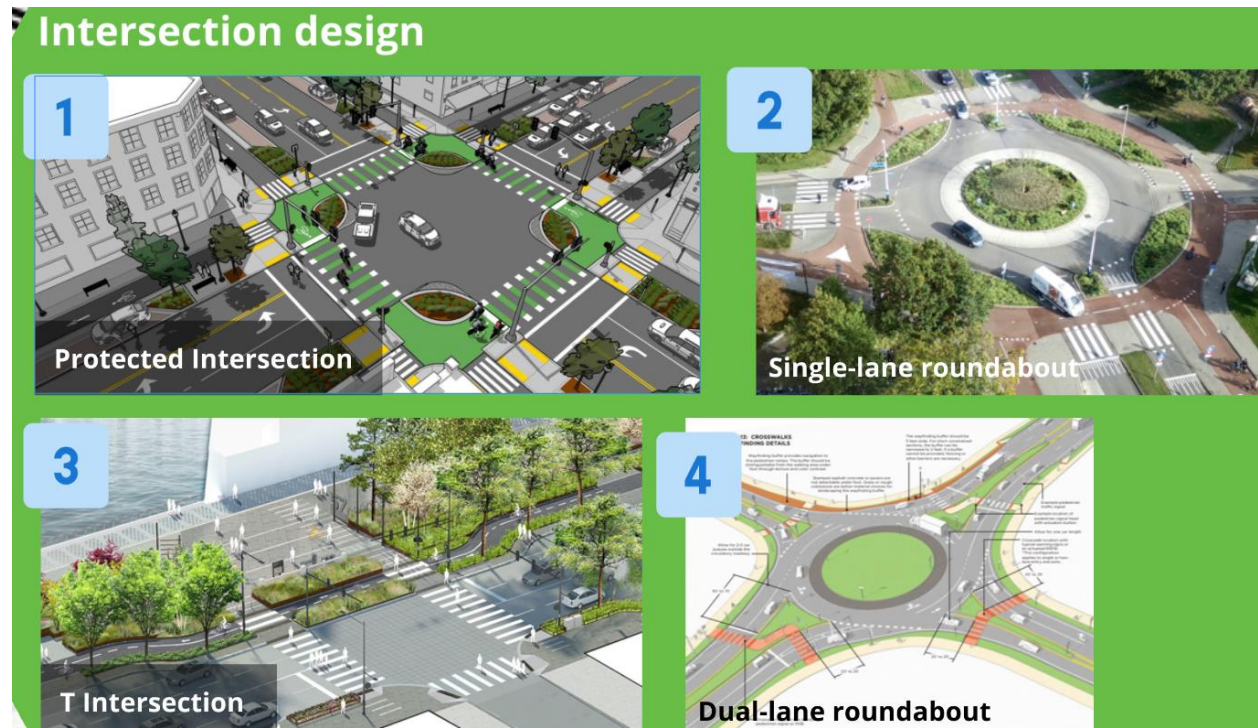




Poll 2: Median treatment



Poll 3: Intersection design.



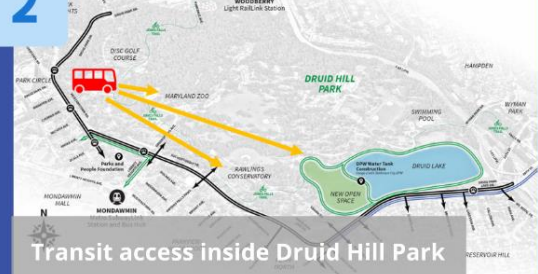
Poll 4: Transit

Transit

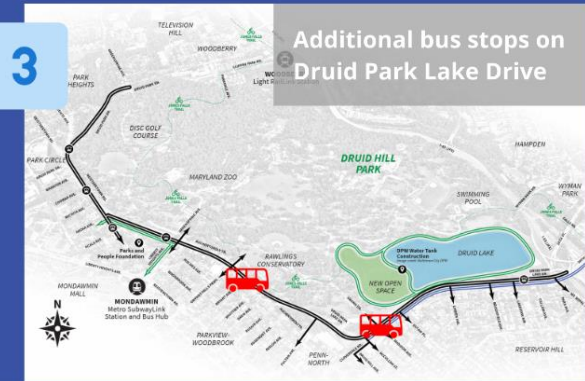
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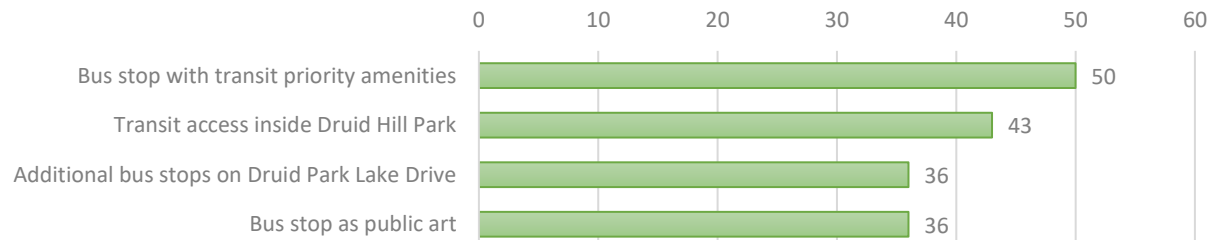
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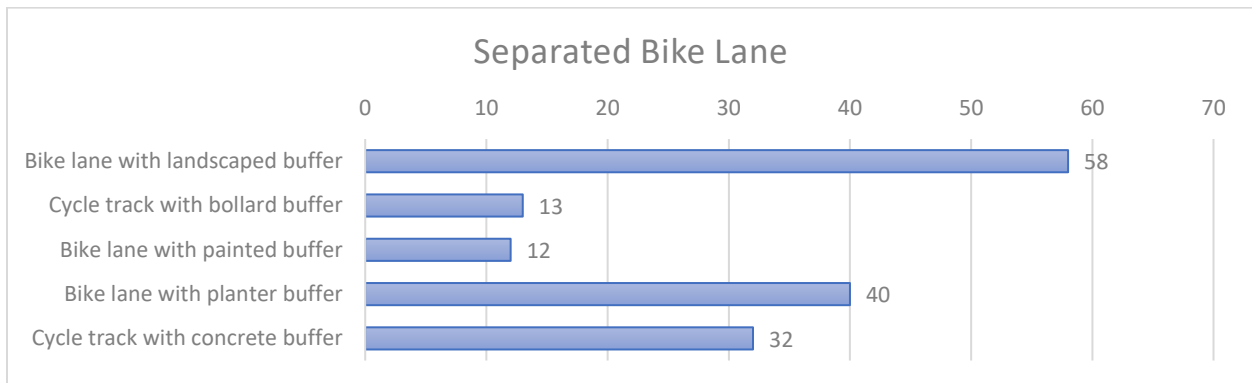


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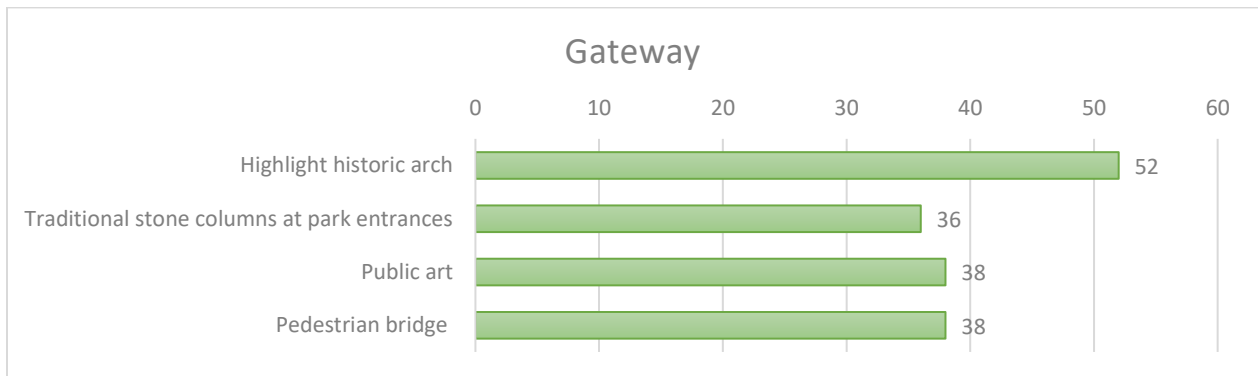
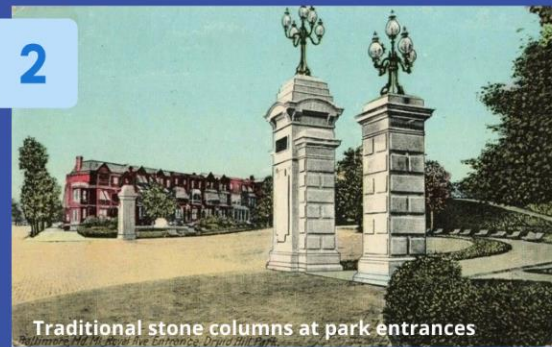
Poll 5: Separated bike Lanes

Separated Bike Lane



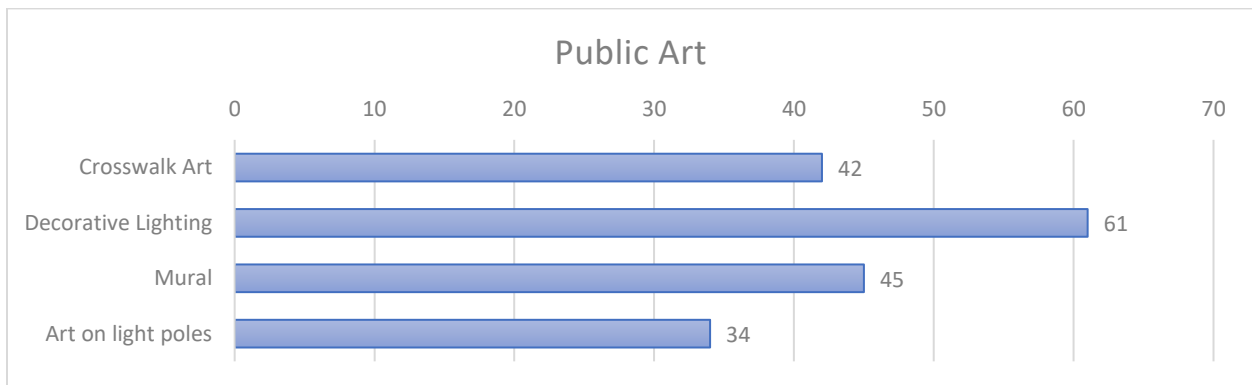
Poll 6: Gateway

Gateway



Poll 7: Public art

Public Art



Questions and Answers:

Questions received during the public meeting and the project team's answers are summarized below.

Q & A Session 1

- Question:** Will pedestrian access to the northwest be considered? Better pedestrian access to the park from Park Circle is needed.
 - Answer:** Clear and accessible access is a priority along the entire corridor. The project will evaluate pedestrian connections on and across Druid Park Lake Drive along the entire corridor.
- Question:** Will the design concepts connect to everyday living issues such as social class and race, employment and housing, and access for all users?

- **Answer:** Improvements to transportation help connect people to jobs and economic opportunities throughout the city. Through this project, the City aims to create better transportation connections and improve quality of life for surrounding communities.
- Councilman James Torrence noted that the Druid Lake Vision Plan is being planned concurrently, in addition to neighborhood stabilization planning sessions for Penn North.
- **Question:** Why are vehicles placed at the bottom of the transportation mode hierarchy?
 - **Answer:** The Complete Streets mode hierarchy elevates roadway users who are most vulnerable to injury if the roadway does not include safe infrastructure for these modes. Safety and accessibility are major components of the way this hierarchy was designed, and we want to ensure that we design the roadway so that it is safe for all users.
- **Question:** Is the project team committed to reducing speeds while not creating gridlock? Is the team committed to studying drive times?
 - **Answer:** Traffic analysis is a component of the study and will be conducted as part of the evaluation of concepts. We're studying trip times and impact so that we can make projections for the future. The corridor is currently very auto-centric, so expanding access for community members to walk, bike and use transit on this corridor is a major component. BCDOT is committed to following the Complete Streets Manual in the design of this corridor, so the goal is to consider the safety and accessibility needs of all modes in order to strike an equitable balance based on the established modal hierarchy.
 - Councilman Torrence added that the team will be going to neighborhood community meetings, canvassing, and conducting pop-ups to talk with as many people as possible to better understand the community needs.
- **Question:** Will the study team consider a solution to the gridlock on Druid Park Lake Drive going to I-83? Will the study team study impacts of the project to Gwynns Falls Parkway and Liberty Heights communities?
 - **Answer:** Traffic analysis is a component of the study and will be conducted as part of the evaluation of concepts.
- **Question:** Will the study team consider the expansion of the Circulator Bus for getting people to the park from Mondawmin?
 - **Answer:** The study team will evaluate transit options that could be added or expanded to improve transit connections between Mondawmin and Druid Hill Park.
- **Question:** What is the timeline for this project and construction of the redesigned corridor?
 - **Answer:** The study will conclude at the end of the year and will produce 2-3 concepts for BCDOT to consider for Druid Park Lake Drive. The next steps are contingent upon funding. From concept to breaking ground, it can be around six years, but is dependent on receiving concurrent funding. The steps between now and going to construction include a full planning study / NEPA evaluation, preliminary / final design engineering, and bidding the project for construction.
- **Question:** Has the team looked at the width of streets? There are challenges for emergency vehicles when traffic is backed up.
 - **Answer:** The Fire Department and EMS are part of the team's interagency stakeholder group and will be providing feedback on the team's concepts to ensure emergency vehicles are able to safely and efficiently access the corridor with suitable response times in mind.
- **Question:** Will the Big Jump be made permanent?

- **Answer:** The team is looking to incorporate permanent, safe cycling infrastructure along the entire corridor and a shared-use path for pedestrians, bikers, micro-mobility users, and people using mobility devices.
- **Question:** Are connections being considered to Druid Hill Park from the large apartment buildings on Druid Park Lake Drive, which have large senior populations?
 - **Answer:** Yes, the project team is evaluating additional crossing points along the entire corridor to make it safer and easier for community members to cross into the park from their neighborhoods. The team is evaluating design options like raised crosswalks, a pedestrian bridge and varying types of crosswalk materials to make these crossings as safe and accessible as possible for all users.

Project Schedule

The project team is in the process of developing concepts based on input from the public meeting, one-on-one interviews, community stakeholder meetings, evaluation of plans and studies, comment card input and interagency feedback. The team will share these concepts with the public at the next public meeting in August or September 2021. The final report and concepts will be delivered to BCDOT in December 2021.

The project team would love to hear more from community members and users of Druid Park Lake Drive. Please fill out the comment card at bit.ly/druidparklakedrive.